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Environment Environnement Ontario

INTRODUCTION OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT, 1991 FOR SECOND READING

NOVEMBER 19, 1991

Environment Minister Ruth Grier, in her opening remarks to the Speaker, pointed to the public's growing concern for the environment in spite of current economic conditions. As well, she recognised the efforts of many in industry, commerce and other institutions who today are thinking and working greener, and for whom pollution prevention is the key objectives. She went on to outline the major four point environmental strategy that has shaped the Waste Management Act 1991 and will determine its effectiveness.

POLICY TALK

Highlights

Today I am pleased to introduce the Waste Management Act, 1991, for second reading in the Legislature. This is our government's first milestone in refining this province's environmental laws so that we may maintain a level of environmental quality which will nurture a healthy, productive society and a strong, sustainable economy.

With this legislation, we are beginning to implement an environmental strategy which is based on four major policy directions:

- First, that this is a green government. The environment must be taken into account in all of our policies and programs, throughout all ministries and government bodies.
- Secondly, stewardship – Everyone has a stake in the environment, including both a right to enjoy its benefits and a responsibility for its protection.
- Thirdly, conserving – To create a sustainable environment, we must transform ourselves from a consumer society to a conserver society.
- And fourthly, prevention – Our programs have a double focus, to develop strategies to prevent further damage and to clean up existing problems in our environment.

These basic policy directions will continue to be paramount as I bring forward further legislative initiatives, policies and programs.

The Act addresses urgent environmental issues facing this province and provides the legal authority for the government to resolve them and to begin implementing strong and consistent environmental policies.

3Rs

The Act provides a framework within which we can accelerate the transition from a consumer society to a conserver society strongly based in the 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – with the emphasis on waste reduction.

This is the legal foundation for implementing a series of regulatory initiatives for waste reduction, the first of which I released for public consultation last month. It is the means by which we intend to achieve more than 25 per cent waste diversion from disposal in 1992 and more than 50 per cent by the year 2000.

We are tackling a waste management system that has traditionally been heavily weighted in favor of simply finding disposal sites instead of reducing the amount to be disposed of in the first place. With this legislation, and regulations and programs to follow, we intend to require municipalities to account for and maintain records of the full cost of waste management facilities and establish disposal fees which are substantial enough to reflect those true costs.

At the same time we will expedite approvals of 3Rs facilities – such as composting and recycling plants – to remove some of the barriers that impede their establishment.

Public Involvement

This Act will help us to improve the

Continued on page

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY: WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT, 1991

On October 24, 1991, Minister of the Environment, Ruth Grier, introduced to the Ontario Legislature for first reading Bill 143 of the Waste Management Act, 1991.

A bill is a draft Act of Parliament as presented to the Legislature and must pass through three "readings" before becoming law. The first reading serves as an introduction and a copy is sent to each member. Approval of the principle of the bill is sought in the second reading, after which, the Speaker asks if the bill should be read a third time. If even one Member dissents, the bill must be sent to an appropriate Committee of the Legislature for further review. In Committee, each clause of the bill is examined in detail. The committee may amend sections of the bill, but may not alter its basic principle. Once the committee has completed its review, the bill is sent back to the Legislature for the third reading. The final step before any bill becomes law is 'Royal Assent,' the ceremonial signing by the Lieutenant Governor.

Summary

The proposed Waste Management Act is made up of four parts:

- Part I continues the Interim Waste Authority Ltd. as a crown agency and gives it the additional powers required to establish three long-term landfill sites in the Greater Toronto Area.
- Part II establishes the areas of search for the three landfill sites in the Greater Toronto Area and the content requirements for the environmental assessment of the sites.
- Part III clarifies the duty of the municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area to implement the Minister's reports under Section 29 of the Environmental Protection Act and removes any legal impediments to their doing so.
- Part IV amends the Environmental Protection Act to help speed up 3Rs activities and projects in Ontario.

Some Facts and Figures

- Total amount of waste generated in Ontario in 1989 (the latest year for which figures are available) from residential, industrial and commercial sources: 10 million tonnes.
- Estimated annual amount spent by municipalities in Ontario to collect and dispose of solid waste safely: $400 million.
- Estimated number of tonnes of waste that could be diverted from disposal through these projects: 1.2 million.
- Amount committed to date by Ontario to fund various industrial, commercial and institutional waste diversion projects: $51 million.

WASTE MANAGEMENT / *Continued from page 1*

public's ability to carry out the 3Rs so that waste reduction measures are more consistent across the province. This means mandatory recycling and leaf and yard material composting programs in all larger municipalities, which will allow more people to share the benefits enjoyed by those who live in our already waste-conscious municipalities.

Waste Audits

In the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors, which account for some 60 per cent of the solid waste now going to disposal, the Act will allow the province to require annual waste audits, implementation of waste reduction action plans and recycling programs in designated larger operations.

The legislation also extends our ability to deal with packaging and containers, which make up an estimated 21 per cent of our waste stream, and in addition, to deal with disposable products and products that pose other waste management problems. Here too, we expect to develop an effective program of waste audits and waste reduction action plans.

As a government, we are convinced that solutions to environmental problems can't wait for more prosperous times. The challenge is to develop creative programs...

Focus on Toronto

Sections of the Act focus attention on the Greater Toronto Area, where we have close to four million residents making up about 44 per cent of the total Ontario population. It is in the GTA, consequently that we find the greatest need for solutions to deal with disposal sites that are rapidly reaching their original design capacities. At the same time, this concentration of population and economic activity provides the greatest possible opportunities for success in 3Rs initiatives.

We have established the Interim Waste Authority Ltd. to provide provincial leadership to the GTA in establishing long-term waste disposal facilities and seeing them through the environmental assessment process. The Act before us today provides some of the authority essential to achieving this goal.

They have been incorporated into the Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement. The MISA program is focused at more than 300 industries discharging directly into our lakes and rivers and more than 12,000 industries which tie into sewer systems. We have strengthened it to emphasize pollution prevention and to reduce the discharge of persistent toxic contaminants by reducing the use of these contaminants in the first place.

Can't Wait

These new directions I am implementing share the values and reflect the principles adopted by the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy, which I am privileged to chair. The government is continuing to look to this multi-stakeholder group for the strategic planning essential to the development of a conserver society in an environment that will nurture and sustain both quality of life and healthy economic activity.

As a government, we are convinced that solutions to environmental problems can't wait for more prosperous times. The challenge is to develop creative programs to respond to the need for immediate and strong action, and to do this in a way which is fiscally responsible.

The government is working with business and industry to increase their competitiveness in a world market for environmental expertise which could exceed $200 billion.

In developing comprehensive environmental programs the Ministry of the Environment is providing a spur to all industries to come up with technological advances to meet our regulations. The ministry wants to establish an environmental climate which will encourage industry to bring about this kind of development.

The government is on the road to providing the people of Ontario with the quality of life to which they aspire, in an environmentally sustainable economy.

GOAL OF CLEANER WATER CALLS FOR TOUGHER MEASURES

Environment Minister, Ruth Grier announced a new initiative to reform existing water quality legislation, policies and programs at a workshop on Water Efficiency Strategy for Ontario, on October 21, 1991.

The Ministries of Environment, Natural Resources, Housing, Education, and Government Services are all pursuing co-ordinated initiatives to reduce water use and to prevent pollution, Mrs. Grier said.

Until recently, the Ontario Government had focused almost exclusively on the construction of infrastructure, monitoring pollution and quick-fix, site specific remediation. These measures, the Minister said, have not succeeded in preventing pollution.

MISA sets pace

The new reforms will impact on the Municipal Industrial Strategy on Abatement (MISA) which began in 1986 and which covers more than 300 industries which discharge directly into our lakes and rivers and more than 11,000 industries which tie into sewer systems.

Mrs. Grier outlined the pollution and control measures which will achieve the goal, as set out in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, of virtual elimination of specific toxic contaminants from discharges to Ontario waterways. The measures include: setting effluent limits for sector-specific contaminants, prohibiting waste water discharges that kill fish, a zero-discharge list of persistent toxic substances, and targets for industry to reduce other toxic contaminants to minimum levels.

New regulations

Following the completion of the first phase of the MISA program which monitored the effluent for nine industrial sectors, including 300 direct discharging industries, new regulations are being designed on a sector by sector basis that will prevent and limit discharges.

These regulations will be based on three principles which are a significant shift in policy for the ministry.

First: Pollution Prevention which includes using prevention technologies to move the focus from the public domain to inside the factory walls where environmental reform must take place, and reducing industry's reliance on end-of-pipe technology

Second: stopping the transfer of pollutants from one environmental medium to another, as in the case of water pollution caused not only by direct discharges but also indirectly from acid rainfall or leaking industrial landfills.

Third: Zero Discharge of specific persistent toxic chemicals, a key element of the pollution prevention strategy, and the heart of the MISA action program.

Phosphorous

Mrs. Grier also underlined her ministry's concern with the amount of phosphorous loadings in Ontario's river systems – the result of surface water runoff from agricultural land. In Lake Erie, phosphorous loadings from farmland are double those of all industrial and municipal sources combined. In Lake Ontario, with more urban development, the amounts are roughly equal, and in recent years, three out of four water quality samples taken from Southwestern Ontario streams and lakes show phosphorous levels above the provincial guidelines.

Watershed

The Ministry of the Environment is currently undertaking a variety of initiatives to achieve a more integrated provincial approach to watershed management. One such initiative, the development of Watershed Resources Master Planning Guidelines will assist municipalities, conservation authorities and developers to protect their watersheds against the harmful affect of urbanization.

POLLUTION PENALTIES MORE SEVERE – AND MORE CREATIVE

Courts are sending a strong message to pollution law breakers in Ontario – it's going to cost more than ever.

Total fines increased to $2,514,595 last year, reflecting a steady increase of prosecutions and convictions since 1985/86 when fines totalled $605,668. Individual fines have climbed to an average of $9,200 over the same period.

Creative sentencing is very much in evidence in recent court decisions, whereby the company or individuals at fault receive not only a fine, but are also asked to contribute to the community directly through educational and other programs.

Scandia Metal fined

Scandia Metal Finishing Ltd. and its owner John Bowman have been fined a total of $11,000 following a discharge of poisonous chemicals which caused a major fish kill in Pottersburg Creek in London.

The court found that, on or about April 9, 1990, company employees arrived at work to find several overturned barrels that had contained a cyanide and cadmium solution. The chemicals spilled into a catch basin which flows into Walker's Drain, Pottersburg Creek and then the Thames River.

It is not known who caused the spill.

Oil spill fine an education for CP

Canadian Pacific Ltd. must pay a $5,000 fine and establish environmental scholarships worth $30,000 at Lakehead University after being convicted of spilling oil into the Kaministiquia River at Thunder Bay.

In March 1988, Canadian Pacific employees de-activated a skimmer which was part of an oil/water separator used to handle excess oil at the company's train yard. An unknown quantity of oil accumulated and overflowed into the nearby Kaministiquia River.

The company contended that this action was necessary to prevent debris from building up in the separator but was convicted under section 16(1) of the Ontario Water Resources Act, which relates to the discharge of contaminants that may impair water quality.

Biomedical waste – hot issue

A provincial court has levied fines totalling $60,000 against Decom Medical Waste Systems Inc. and Decom Inc. for a series of violations of their Certificates of Approval in the handling of biomedical waste between January 5 and August 22 1990.

In March 1990, an inspection at a waste transfer station in Etobicoke revealed that during a period of warm weather, 29 trailers containing biomedical waste recorded a temperature higher than required. Many of the trailers had been stored on-site for several weeks.

Boiling Oil Treatment

A provincial court has fined Safety-Kleen Canada Inc. a total of $115,000 for discharging oil vapor into the environment and for failing to notify the ministry without delay.

During the night of July 27, 1988, at the company's facility near Kitchener a tank's lid blew off while hot oil was being transferred from one tank into another. The force of the blast blew oil vapor over a residential area near the plant.

ON THE ROAD TO CLEANER AIR

Minister applauds OTA's committment to new guidelines for trucking industry

"The 90's Challenge: Managing Change." was the theme of the Ontario Trucking Association's convention held in Toronto, Nov. 21, 1991. Environment Minister, Ruth Grier, praised the initiative shown by the OTA in establishing Guidelines for an Environmental Code of Practice as she spoke on behalf of the Minister of Transportation, Gilles Pouliot. Saying that she was 'pleased to see that the OTA is committed to making the trucking industry run as cleanly as possible,' the Minister outlined how the Ontario Government would continue working with the industry to make it 'greener and more viable.' Mrs. Grier spoke from her perspective as Minister of the Environment and the Office of the Greater Toronto Area, as well as Chair of the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy.

In her remarks (excerpted below) she first identified the major sources of air pollution and then proposed appropriate controls and solutions.

Major Pollution Sources

As the province – and especially the Greater Toronto Area – continues to grow, there will be even more trucks on the road to meet the increased demand for goods. This government wants to make sure that it is **Ontario** trucks that drive our roads, outperforming the competition. But we want to make sure that you do so as cleanly as possible.

One of the biggest sources of pollution in this province is the motorized vehicle. Auto emissions account for 63 per cent of the nitrogen oxides in our air, 38 per cent of volatile organic compounds and 64 per cent of benzene. Motor vehicles are also responsible for production of other pollutants, such as carbon dioxide; carbon monoxide; and CFCs.

These contaminants cause a number of major environmental problems, especially global warming and ground level ozone, which leads to smog.

Federal government statistics indicate that trucks are major emitters of particulate, which is a highly visible form of pollution. The smoke opacity limits which we developed – with input from your industry – are reducing these emissions.

> As the province – and especially the Greater Toronto Area – continues to grow, there will be even more trucks on the road to meet the increased demand for goods. This government wants to make sure that it Ontario trucks that drive our roads, outperforming the competition.

Cut Emissions

We want to see particulate emissions reduced even further. We are reviewing our current smoke emission limits and will be consulting with the OTA, as well as truck manufacturers.

We are also concerned about non-visible emissions from trucks, which are significant emitters of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen.

As well, trucks produce hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide.

New technologies have already started to make a dent in these emissions. I understand that oxides of nitrogen and particulate emissions have been reduced by about 50 per cent for 1991 truck engines. We could see these emissions further reduced by as much as 50 per cent by 1994.

Low-sulphur diesel fuel and ceramic particulate traps also promise to significantly improve the environmental performance of diesel engines.

My ministry is reviewing our current strategy for the control of vehicle emissions.

Potential measures might include a new regulation governing heavy duty vehicles. Some of the issues that will be examined include:

- restrictions on the time trucks may be left idling;
- maximum emission limits for smoke opacity, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons;
- requirements for preventative maintenance of vehicles;
- prohibitions against misfuelling, tampering with fuel limiting valves or emission control devices.

Such measures would be backed up with improved enforcement technologies, as well as research and education.

Working Together

You will have the opportunity to be partners in the development of such programs. The Ministry of the Environment is not going to impose new regulations from on high.

We have already established a good record of cooperative efforts with your industry.

Round Table Forum For Change

The long-term sustainability of the trucking industry and all of our industrial sectors is the goal of the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy, which I am chairing. The Round Table provides a forum for stakeholders to achieve a consensus on how we can make our economy environmentally sustainable.

The Round Table has commissioned several task forces to look into ways to achieve sustainability in various sectors, including transport.

Recommendations made by that group include the promotion of inter-modal transportation terminals using trucks, rail, air and water, as well as full cost accounting, which incorporates environmental impacts into total costs.

End Urban Sprawl

Trucks will continue to play a vital role in the transportation of goods in this province. The Urban Development and Commerce Sectoral Task Force is looking for ways to get cars off the road in city cores, thereby reducing the costly and frustrating tie-ups which you now experience.

In its report, the Urban Development group states that we need to find ways to put an end to urban sprawl, to make our cities more compact without making them more congested. We need to develop more intensified city centres which provide high-quality public transit.

Both the Transportation and Urban Development task forces suggest that we find ways to encourage alternative personal methods of transportation – such as mass transit, cycling and walking – and discourage the use of cars.

Boosting Competitiveness

Speaking on behalf of Gilles Pouliot, Mrs. Grier outlined several steps taken by the Ministry of Transportation to improve the competitiveness of the Ontario trucking industry and to increase Highway Safety.

INVESTMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

The Ontario government has set targets of at least 25 per cent diversion of waste from disposal by 1992 and at least 50 per cent by the year 2000. In order to achieve these goals the Ministry of Environment has funded many projects and programs in 1991/1992, including: Direct Grant Programs for sewage treatment and infrastructure adding up to $120 million plus an additional $19.6 million to offset effects of the recession. The Beaches Program has received $30 million as part of an initiative to clean up our beaches. Lifelines, a project to fix and build municipal infrastructure, received $21.4 million, and Provincial Projects (sewage and water treatment plant owned by the ministry) were allocated $84.3 million in loans plus a further $18.8 million outright grants.

$9.3 million for Ottawa-Carleton sewage treatment plant November 18, 1991

The Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton has received an interim payment of $9.3 million for its new sewage treatment plant, Gilles Morin, MPP for Carleton East, announced today on behalf of Environment Minister Ruth Grier.

The payment is part of a total grant of up to $97 million for the Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre. It is one of the largest municipal projects in Canada today.

The project, which is estimated to cost $368 million, will upgrade the former Green Creek Pollution Control Plant as well as expand its capacity and improve the quality of the effluent which is discharged into the Ottawa River. Construction on the project is expected to finish at the end of 1992.

Municipal Waste Management Funding Programs

The Ministry of the Environment provided funding and technical assistance to Ontario communities for programs which encourage municipalities to develop self-financed 3Rs methods to improve waste management. This funding has extended into Ontario schools where Student Action for Recycling (STAR) program, funded by the ministry, establishes recycling programs both at school and board levels.

The following are some of the projects recently funded by the ministry. For more information on the ministry's Municipal Waste Support Programs, contact the Waste Reduction Office, Ministry of the Environment, 2 St. Clair Ave. West, 14th floor, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1L5.

Student Action for Recycling

Student Recycling Grants, November/December 1991

Muskoka Board of Education	$10,300
Board of Education for the City of Toronto	$306,200
Halton Board of Education	$70,932
Dufferin-Peel Catholic Separate School Board	$60,786
Waterloo Region Catholic School Board	$42,710
York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board	$37,870
Peel Board of Education	$189,290
Total	**$718,088**

Municipal Reduction/ Reuse Program

Home Composting Projects – November, 1991

Recycling Council Ontario	$19,990
City of Brantford	$38,660
Township of Monmouth	$7,250
City of Mississauga	$64,000
Township of Rideau	$34,970
Bluewater Recycling Association (Grand Bend)	$62,215
Town of Napanee	$84,935
Township of Dysart	$58,660
Total	**$370,680**

Home Composting Projects – December, 1991

Township of Tilbury East (supplementary grant)	$1,397
Town of Ridgetown	$9,860
Township Adolphustown	$18,000
Township of Oro	$35,510
Town of Haileybury	$20,100
District Municipality of Muskoka	$65,405
City of Kingston	$394,220
Total	**$544,492**

Municipal Waste Recovery Program

Waste reduction projects, November/December 1991

Township of Sioux Narrows	$6,584
Town of St. Marys	$8,050
City of Sarnia-Clearwater	$34,000
Township and City of Kingston	$156,490
City of Mississauga	$409,000
Total	**$614,124**

Municipal Recycling Support Program

Recycling Grants – December, 1991

Township of Fullarton	$1,000
Township of Hibbert	$3,300
Township of Front of Yonge	$4,785
Township of Camden	$6,862
Township of Collingwood	$14,450
Township of Howick	$16,255
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	$80,600
City of North York	$120,000
Town of Vaughan	$511,150
Total	**$758,402**

Recycling Grants – November, 1991

Association of Municipalities of Ontario	$60,000
Township of North Dorchester	$74,251
Township of Armour	$69,900
Bruce County (11 municipalities)	$277,800
Almaguin Recycling Initiative	$87,000
Regional Municipality of Durham	$35,500
City of Vanier	$120,860
Total	**$725,311**

"Technological Trailblazing" Helps Scrap Tire Mountains

Highlights from Deputy Minister, Gary Posen's, speech at Recovery Technologies Inc. Open House December 5, 1991.

The development of an environmentally sound solution to our scrap tire problem is certainly cause for celebration. The Hagersville fire did much to focus international attention on the serious hazards of stockpiled tires – but until now there have been few viable remedies.

WASTE REDUCTION

The minister has rejected incineration as a method of disposal because such an approach merely moves the problem from the surface to the air, whereas, disposal in our already overloaded landfill sites merely drives the problem underground.

Meets Goals

I am particularly excited about this development by Recovery Technologies because it embraces so many of the environmental goals the Ontario government has set. Moreover, this company has achieved these goals profitably, within a highly competitive global market.

Let me list some of the key benefits that flow from this enterprise.

- First of all, the plant in Ayr will deal with up to one million scrap tires a year.
- Second, this plant has already created jobs.
- Third, it makes a major contribution to Environment Ontario's 3Rs policy – reduce, reuse, recycle. More than 300,000 tires have been recycled in the Ayr plant to date.
- Fourth, it has bolstered our balance of payments by opening up a multi-million-dollar export market – in technology AND in recycled products. Export sales of the technology in 1992 are expected to top several million dollars.
- And finally, this achievement adds even more substance to Ontario's growing international reputation as a centre of excellence in the research and development of environmental technology.

It would be difficult to script a happier tale of technological trailblazing. I am pleased that the ministry is part of it. The ministry has committed up to $1,527,750 through its Industrial Waste Diversion Program. To date, part of the ministry's contribution to the total project has helped to buy the plant in Ayr which is now processing scrap tires.

The ministry's work with Recovery Technologies is one facet of a many-faceted solution to the problem of scrap tires in Ontario. The government has budgeted $16 million to the end of the fiscal year 1991-1992 for research programs, capital expenditures, market development and underwriting demonstration projects for rubberized asphalt.

Green Works

The product we are officially honouring today stands as a shining testimonial to the thriving partnership between economy and environment. Green technology makes sense. It makes environmental sense; it makes social sense; and it makes dollars and cents.

And no one is better poised than Ontario to play a major role in the research and development of this emerging technology. We have a highly educated work force, a strong industrial base and an internationally renowned scientific and technical community.

Green technology can become Ontario's major contribution to the global effort to heal our planet – while at the same time contributing to the economic renewal of our province.

Recovery Technologies has provided an outstanding example of how we can realize this environmental and economic renaissance.

Interim Composting Guidelines Announced

NOVEMBER 29, 1991

The interim guidelines provide a review of ministry regulations required for aerobic (oxygenated) composting, and give a brief overview of the process and highlight factors critical to the success of composting.

Organic composting has the capability to divert from landfill between 25 and 30 per cent of the waste stream.

The main purpose of the guidelines will be to protect human health and the environment by promoting the growth in Ontario of environmentally sound composting operations that will be properly engineered, operated and monitored. As well, they will allow for consistent ministry approval reviews across the province.

Fine Tuning

Following a broad review within the ministry, the interim guidelines were fine-tuned to reflect input from municipalities, consultants, equipment suppliers and private operators.

The interim guidelines will be further refined as more data about the background levels of naturally occurring metals in soils are collected and verified. This information will be used to finalize the guidelines by Fall 1992. In the meantime, the interim guidelines can be used by municipalities for site selection and design of composting facilities.

"These guidelines will help lay the foundation for achieving and surpassing Ontario's waste reduction objectives of 25 per cent diversion from disposal in 1992 and 50 per cent by the year 2000," Mrs. Grier said.

Copies of the report *Interim Guidelines for the Production and Use of Aerobic Compost in Ontario* are available through the ministry's Public Information Centre at 135 St. Clair Ave. W., Toronto, M4V 1P5, Tel. (416) 323-4321.

TECH NOTES

Scientific reports are one of the Ministry of the Environment's tools to inform the public about on the progress of the ministry's programs and activities: about 250 scientific reports are published each year. Most of these reports (about 150) are "Green Cover" reports, which contain results of general interest investigations. Other types of reports include "Grey Cover" consultants' reports (commissioned by the ministry); "White Cover" reports on special programs, such as MISA and RAC; and scientific papers intended for publication in journals. **Tech Notes** gives a summary of some of the ministry's recently released scientific reports. For a complete listing of these scientific reports and information on how to order copies, see "Period Publications Report" on page 8.

MOE ACTS ON MANOTICK WELL POLLUTION

The Ministry of the Environment has found 74 wells contaminated with two potentially cancer-causing chemicals, benzene and perchloroethylene, in the village of Manotick, 15 kilometres south of Ottawa along the Rideau River. The contamination has been found in the old part of the village where private wells are used.

As a safety measure, the Ministry of the Environment, in consultation with the Ottawa-Carleton Health Department, has extended the supply of bottled water to approximately 130 homes and businesses located in the old part of the village.

Drinking water contaminated by the chemicals could cause dizziness, nausea and vomiting, headaches and drowsiness. Both chemicals, if consumed at elevated levels over a long term period, have a potential to damage the liver and kidneys.

All restaurants and food preparation outlets within this area are using bottled water for drinking and cooking purposes.

A hydrogeological consulting firm will identify the extent and the sources of the groundwater contamination and evaluate remedial measures.

Groundwater study gets public participation ball rolling

A public meeting was held on Wednesday Jan. 29, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. at the Manotick Community Hall on Dr. Leach Drive. A public liaison committee was formed with representatives from the public, the Health Department, the municipality and the Ministry of the Environment. The committee meets weekly to discuss issues relevant to the contamination and its cleanup.

The ministry encourages the formation of public committees to handle local environmental concerns. There are three kinds of committees which can deal with these issues: **Public Advisory Committees** deal with plans and developing policies related to complex and lengthy environmental problems; **Public Liaison Committees** are frequently organized at a local level to address site-specific concerns; and **Monitoring Committees** assume a "watch-dog" function during the implementation of a project to ensure decisions are being acted upon.

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